

RetakeOurGov

November 29, 2012

Ms. Gail Haines
State Representative, 43rd District
Chair – House Health Policy Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol
N-892 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairwoman Haines,

I am writing on behalf of our organization to express our strong opposition to SB 693. Additionally, we oppose any legislation which would enable the State of Michigan to take part in the implementation of any Obama Care Health Insurance Exchange.

In our view, State-created exchanges mean higher taxes, fewer jobs, and less protection of religious freedom. Michigan is better off defaulting to a federal exchange.

There are many arguments against creating exchanges.

1. First, states are under no obligation to create one.
2. The Cato Institute estimates an exchange would cost a state an estimated \$10 million to \$100 million per year, necessitating tax increases.
3. Any deadline for implementing an exchange is no more real than the “deadlines” for implementing REAL ID, which have been pushed back repeatedly since 2008.
4. States can always create an exchange later if they choose.
5. A state-created exchange is not a state-controlled exchange. All exchanges will be controlled by Washington.
6. Congress authorized no funds for federal “fallback” exchanges. So Washington may not be able to impose Exchanges on states at all.
7. The Obama administration has yet to provide crucial information that states need before they can make an informed decision.
8. Creating an exchange sets state officials up to take the blame when Obamacare increases insurance premiums and denies care to the sick. State officials won't want their names on this disastrous mess.

9. Creating an exchange would be assisting in the creation of a “public option” that would drive domestic health-insurance carriers out of business through unfair competition.
10. Obamacare remains unpopular. The latest Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that only 38 percent of the public support it.
11. Defaulting to a federal exchange exempts a state’s employers from the employer mandate — a tax of \$2,000 per worker per year (the tax applies to companies with more than 50 employees, but for such companies that tax applies after the 30th employee, not the 50th). If all states did so, that would also exempt 18 million Americans from the individual mandate’s tax of \$2,085 per family of four. Avoiding those taxes improves a state’s prospects for job creation, and protects the conscience rights of employers and individuals whom the Obama administration is forcing to purchase contraceptives coverage.
12. Finally, rejecting an exchange reduces the federal deficit. Obamacare offers its deficit-financed subsidies to private health insurers only through *state*-created exchanges. If all states declined, federal deficits would fall by roughly \$700 billion over ten years.

It is our hope that Michigan will join the ranks of the 20 other states which have refused to be collaborators in the federal takeover of the health care rights of individual citizens. We expect our legislators to protect our rights and liberties, not take them away and give them to a federal bureaucracy.

On behalf of our supporters across Southeast and Central Michigan, I am asking you and your fellow Republican legislators to vote no on SB 693. We are also asking for you and your colleagues to prevent the passage of any substitute bill which erodes the rights of Michigan citizens to control their health care decisions without interference from federal bureaucrats.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Wesley J. Nakagiri
RetakeOurGov
P.O. Box 37
Hartland, MI 48353
(810) 207-1867